FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Iran

Statement 142 of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, carried textually by Tehran radio, says that since the issue of the hostages is a "determining factor" for U.S. foreign policy in the period approaching the presidential elections, the United States is planning to free them before the "decisive decision" of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The students warned that the "slightest military move" by the United States "prior to the determination of the spies' fate" will result in death to both the hostages and those trying to free them. The statement adds that the students are on "full alert," but that in order to thwart any rescue attempt they have decided to "relocate" the hostages from the provincial cities to "unspecified" locations. They stated that the hostages held in Shiraz, Gorgan, Zanjan and Qazvin have already been taken elsewhere.

In an interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi Rafsanjani said that the assembly's Foreign Relations Committee has an item on its agenda calling for a reply to a letter from a group of U.S. congressmen and that the committee should be prepared to discuss the hostage issue itself." Commenting on Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh's assertion that in the hostages affair Iran is the only country violating international law, Rafsanjani said that Iran's action constitutes no more than a "simple reaction" to all the "injustice" suffered at the hands of the United States. He added that while the issue was influencing the U.S. elections, "we should not pay much attention to talk that victory for the Democrats or the Republicans depends on a solution to the hostage issue.

Tehran radio's Arabic Service reported that the main disagreement between President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i in the selection of a new cabinet has been Raja'i's choice of an interior minister. The radio said that Bani-Sadr has made some "observations" in this regard in view of the "sensitivity" of this post and its importance in the current situation. Rafsanjani, in an interview carried by Tehran radio, confirmed that the president and prime minister have differences over the selection of an interior minister but also implied that there is disagreement over other appointments as well. Rafsanjani said that if Bani-Sadr and Raja'i reached agreement by the end of their discussions on 25 August, the cabinet would be announced to the assembly the next day.

In a speech given on 4 July but not broadcast by Tehran radio until 25 August, Prime Minister Raja'i said any future Iranian government should be an "ideological government" whose Weltanschauung should "rule" the people's thoughts and actions. He stated that the imam must be accepted as the "highest source of authority" in such a government, to be followed by the prime minister and then the minister or director general, omitting the president of the republic from this chain of command.

Iranian Radio Jamming

The clandestine Radio Iran, an anti-Khomeyni radio beamed into Iran which often broadcasts the pronouncements of former Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, on 21 August castigated Khomeyni--who, the radio said, speaks of his "divine power"--for "resorting to Western technology" to "silence" Radio Iran by jamming it. On 24 August the radio asked its audience to be "patient" in face of these "futile attempts," saying that "Radio Iran's contact with its listeners, with the Iranian nation, cannot be cut." Efforts to jam the station have taken the form of covering its broadcasts with music or using a strong heterodyne signal to interfere with its reception. Radio Iran tries to counter this by changing frequencies in midbroadcast.

Israel

Commenting on the scheduled 31 August arrival of Ambassador Sol Linowitz in Israel, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said in a speech reported by ITIM that he does not know what the U.S. envoy is bringing with him or what he will take away, but he made clear that as far as Israel is concerned the "task of opening the door" to the autonomy talks is not its responsibility, as "it was not us who closed it." Echoing recent high-level Israeli criticism of the United States, Burg went on to say that Israel has made great sacrifices for peace and is now faced with "a big struggle and an argument with friends." He said that he can conceive of a scenario in which "those same UN hands" that voted for or abstained on the Jerusalem resolution will do the same when discussions focus on Judaea and Samaria and the settlements issue. Burg said that Secretary of State Muskie gave Israel a "wonderful speech" against sanctions "but gave others an abstention."

Syria

In a telephone conversation with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH, reported by QNA, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said the interception of Israeli fighter aircraft by Syrian MiG's on 24 August was in implementation of a "previously adopted political decision" to confront any Israeli aggression against Lebanon or the Palestinians. Ahmad implied, however, that this was not a new policy, as the dogfight in question was not the first "battle" waged under this guideline. It was, however, according to the information minister, "practical evidence" that Syria will fight for the Arab nation with all its "intrinsic potentials."

Ahmad also told AL-WAHDAH that Syria is interested in "qualitatively" developing relations with the Soviet Union--the same phraseology used in the Ba'th Party Central Committee statement issued on 21 August--but went on to add that this particularly concerned "support for Syria's defensive capabilities" in confronting the "Zionist enemy." A further Syrian reference to relations with the Soviet Union was contained in a Damascus radio broadcast of the Ba'th Party National Command statement, adopted after the party's 13th congress at the "beginning of August" but not issued until 25 August. After noting "disequilibrium in the area's balance of forces" and the necessity to "restore the strategic balance" between the Arab nation and its friends onthe one hand and the "Zionist enemy" and its allies on the other, the statement said that the Arab masses and national progressive elements, especially the socialist states in general and the "friendly Soviet Union in particular."

In a development possibly related to indications that Syria is moving closer to the Soviet Union, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister of the Soviet Union's ally government in Ethiopia, concluded a 3-day visit to Damascus by revealing, according to Damascus radio, that Syria and Ethiopia have agreed to establish "full diplomatic relations." In the past, Syria had supported the Eritrean insurgents.

On the domestic front, Damascus radio said that Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm chaired a cabinet meeting on 25 August, his first reported appearance since a 20 August INA report that he had resigned because of differences with other high-level officials.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

Karachi radio reported that a spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office was "categorically denied" Western reports that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are negotiating an agreement under which Pakistani troops would be stationed in Saudi Arabia in return for $1 billion in Saudi aid. This denial follows by 2 days a similar Saudi rejection of the same Western reports.

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SOVIETS STRIP AFGHAN ARMY OF CERTAIN WEAPONS

LD251405 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Aug 80 p 4

[Bruce Loudon dispatch: "Afghan Army Stripped of Its Guns"]

[Text] New Delhi--Afghanistan's Armed Forces were being stripped of all their anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons yesterday following a major tactical decision by Red Army generals at their Kabul headquarters.

The Russians made their decision after reports of increasing incidents in which Red Army helicopters are being shot down and Red Army tanks immobilised by Russian-supplied weapons.

The decision to withdraw the anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons was communicated to Afghan commanders by Russian generals last Friday.

The Afghan commanders are said to have reacted "badly" to the order, which seems certain to contribute further to animosity between the two armies.

The Russian order suggests that the Red Army's generals are ever more distrustful of their Afghan "allies," as it is, they have done what they can to emasculate units of the Afghan Army suspected of "anti-Russian" tendencies.

Despite this there have been recent reports of Afghan Army garrisons rebelling, and a major Russian effort was required to put down an insurrection in Ghazni, south of Kabul.

Yesterday's reports from Kabul spoke of heavy fighting near the important Salang Pass road, which stretches north from Kabul to the Russian border, a major conduit for Russian men and military equipment.

Meanwhile, the embattled communist regime in Kabul has sought help from Khan Abdul Ghaffer Khan, the famous "frontier Gandhi" who is in his nineties.

Ghaffer Khan gained fame by leading Ghandi's "quit India" the North West Frontier movement against the British in province before India's independence. He recently returned to Kabul from Delhi.

As a leader of the fierce Pathan tribesmen, Ghaffer Khan still has enormous influence, and it is this influence which President Karmal, the Russian installed "leader" of Afghanistan, is seeking to employ.

It is learned that on his return to Kabul Ghaffer Khan, who has in the past spoken well of the Russian occupation, was given use of one of the capital's best houses.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY LAUNCH OFFENSIVE AROUND PAGHMAN

LD221345 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 22 Aug 80 p 4

[Dispatch by Bruce Loudon: "Hundreds Killed as Russian Tanks Blast Villages"]

[Text] New Delhi--More than 300 men, women and children were reported dead last night, and hundreds wounded, in a full-scale offensive by Russian tanks and artillery against villages just 10 miles from the centre of Kabul.

First-hand reports from the Afghan capital speak of the city's Jamhariyat and Sani hospitals being filled to overflowing, and of a desperate shortage of blood plasma.

They also speak of streams of refugees seeking sanctuary in Kabul, and of Russian road blocks turning back civilians at gunpoint.

The offensive, in villages around Paghman, the site of the former royal palace used by King Zahir Shah as his summer retreat is, significantly, the first since the Red Army's high command in Kabul was reported to have decided, in consultation with a visiting delegation of senior generals sent by the Kremlin, on a new strategy in the war against Moslem mojahedin guerrillas.

The effect of the new strategy would be to ensure a higher "kill" rate in the conflict, something expected by most observers to follow the ending of the Moscow Olympics.

Authoritative reports from a source in Kabul which has in the past proved accurate say that the Russian onslaught around Paghman began as a retaliatory attack on one or two villages, and rapidly broadened into a full-scale offensive in which widespread destruction and carnage have been caused.

Villages around Paghman have long been known as hide-outs for the mojahedin, and the Russians have adopted a generally desultory attitude toward their presence there.

Last week, however, the mojahedin got wind that the Afghan Government and its Russian sponsors were infiltrating "kochees" into the villages.

"Kochees" are itinerant Afghan workers who generally make for the mountains at this time of the year in search of cooler weather. In this instance the mojahedin, believed that the "kochees" were Afghan Army soldiers sent as spies.

Last Friday the mojahedin surrounded a group of "kochees" in the village of Begtoot, near Paghman. They slaughtered 50 of them. All, it seems, turned out to be Afghan Army soldiers.

Word of the killing soon reached Kabul, and the Russian response was swift. Within hours a massive deployment of tanks, armoured cars, and artillery units was on its way towards Paghman.

One onlooker counted 600 armoured vehicles passing through Karga along the road to Paghman.

Early on Sunday the Russian offensive was launched, beginning at a village called Chilton, and reports speak of long-range artillery pounding small settlements high up in the Paghman Mountains. As usual the mojahedin made good their escape, and it was the civilians who suffered.

The quiet, leafy town of Paghman, which I visited only last month, was apparently taken over by the Russians, who looted shops in search of cigarettes.

Refugees who sought sanctuary in the former royal palace were ruthlessly pursued, and the palace was slightly damaged, according to first-hand reports.

The beautiful royal gardens nearby were also occupied by the Russians and used as a base for artillery assaults.

Last night there were also fresh reports of shooting around the international airport 10 minutes by car from central Kabul.

Apparently fighting around the airport began after mojahedin attacked a police post.

Now, it seems, Russian forces are fighting a running battle with insurgents both in open country near the airport and in surrounding villages.

EDUCATION MINISTER RATEBZAD ADDRESSES KABUL PARTY MEETING

LD252302 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo, member of the Revolution Council and Minister of education and training, participated in the solidarity gathering of the third party ward of Kabul city which was held this afternoon in the hall of Esteqlal school in support and confirmation of the implementation of the resolutions of the third plenum of PDPA Central Committee.

At the beginning of this meeting, after the proposal of the agenda by Dr (Martaza Kaiwan), the secretary of the third party ward of Kabul city, and after its unanimous approval by the participants at the meeting, Dr Anahita Ratebzad began her speech by praising that number of youths, party and nonparty strugglers, who are, at this very moment, fighting in the hot fortresses of war for the honor and pride of the people, and also, in commemoration of the heroic martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the homeland, she sent greetings and declared 1 minute's silence.

Dr Ratebzad subsequently read the historic statement by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolution Council and prime minister, relating to the third plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, which he had delivered at a meeting of the cadres and activists of the party organizations of Kabul city and province and which was warmly and passionately welcomed by the participants at the meeting. The minister of education and training said in conclusion:

Young comrades, the present and future hopes of our beloved and persecuted homeland. Let us choose a life full of adventure, hard and full of longings, but a true and manly life. Let us swear on all the sacred things to be alert, to unite and crush various counterrevolutionary conspiracies, and defeat the role and plan of U.S. imperialism, that most shameful master of the thieves, murderers and [word indistinct] of the world, Carters, As-Sadats, [name indistinct] and reactionary Beijing, the Pakistani reactionaries and Zionism, with conscience and speed.

Comrades, our solidarity and unity is the guarantor of all our successes. Our disunity is the weapon of the enemy. Dear sons of the motherland, it is up to you to consolidate your glorious revolution and save and safeguard it.

Subsequently the secretary of the third party ward and a number of members of the primary organizations of that ward made speeches about the resolutions of the third plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, after which a resolution was drawn up which was read by the assistant secretary of the third party ward. This resolution reads in part: For the complete and resolute crushing of the criminal counterrevolutionary bands, all the party members in this ward, including cadres, full and candidate members, declare our revolutionary and resolute determination to go with pride to any of the fronts which the party deems necessary, and make use of every possibility to implement the slogan: "All power of the party and people for the crushing of the enemies of revolution will be united," which is the scale of the loyalty of us, members of the party, to our proud party, to the great Sawr Revolution and its new development stage and finally to the progressive thoughts of our time.

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS GOL AQA REMARKS ON INTERNAL SECURITY

For a Moscow radio report on remarks by Maj Gen Gol Aqa general director of the Department of Political Matters of the Armed Forces, on the army's successes in combating rebel activity, see D 2 of the 25 August USSR International Affairs South Asia section of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH U.S., HOSTAGES

Statement on Relocation of Hostages

LD252012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] We now draw your attention to statement No 142 by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "Carter must know that if this group had attacked the American espionage center in Tehran there would not now have been any sign of them or of the 50 spies imprisoned in the den of espionage and that they would all have been dispatched to hell"--so said Imam Khomeyni on the occasion of the American military attack on Tabas.

Aware, militant and valiant Iranian nation! No doubt the great Islamic Revolution of Iran, under the leadership of the (?earth's) idol smasher, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, in the course of its successes has so deprived Carter and the American ruling circles of their ability to think that there is no longer the slightest hope for the criminal U.S. Government. Thus, it has resorted to idiotic military exercises in the gulf and to strengthening the hireling and dependent forces on the Iraqi border. It appears that filthy Carter has not learned the lesson from his abortive and most insane military intervention in Tabas, which was smashed thanks to God's will. It appears he has forgotten the ignominious coup plot which faced a disgraceful defeat and results in the arrest and execution of its hireling agents and associates, and that he is still struggling to fulfill his satanical greeds and passions to no avail.

It appears that Carter does not see in a state of constant challenge with him a nation which thinks of nothing other than its school of thought and which does not regard martyrdom as anything except an honor and happiness. Carter vainly imagines that he will be able, by his foolish maneuvers, to divert the dear Iranian nation--which is willing to make any self-sacrifice--from its course, which is the path of God and humanity. It appears that Carter's imagination dismisses the imam of the nation, the Abraham of the globe, the leader of the oppressed, who regards America as the main foe, who identifies it as the great Satan and who regards struggle against the Eastern and Western superpowers--particularly against cannibalistic America--as the duty of all the deprived, particularly Muslims. Madness is something natural for Carter, and for the criminal American ruling circle, who find no way in which they can achieve their satanical greed. For either he has to massacre in one blow a nation of 35 million people who--inspired by the ideal of seeking martyrdom--are ready for jihad for the advancement of the school of Islam or else leave Iran alone. In the latter event America will be unable to find a guarantee for its acts of plunder in the region.

Now that the valiant struggle of Muslim students in America, in Britain, in Italy, in France and other parts of the world--these true children of Islam, these dear ones who are put in chains and fetters by American mercenaries in America itself or by America's puppet states--is going to drag this world-devouring superpower to the dust of disgrace, the filthy Carter sees no other choice except the defeat of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

While warning the courageous and battle-ready Iranian nation we declare that since the issue of the American spies is at present a determining factor for U.S. policy on the approach to the presidential elections, they are therefore planning somehow to save themselves from the mortal consequences of this development and, in their futile imagination, to free them before the decisive decision of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

But this is futile imagination, for we shall vigorously continue to guard the American spies until their fate has been clarified and, as the imam of the nation has stated, if the world-devouring America makes the slightest military move prior to the determination of the fate of the spies the attackers will all be dispatched to hell on the spot. At any rate, we are on full alert and in order to thwart any possible plot we have decided to relocate them in some other unspecified location from the locations they are being held in provincial cities. Those spies who have been held in Shiraz, Gorgan, Zanjan and Qazvin cities have already been relocated to other unspecified locations.

In conclusion, while expressing thanks to the noble Iranian nation for guarding the spies in all the cities, we convey our full gratitude to the heroic peoples, the dear brothers in the guards corps and the mobilization staffs of the cities of Shiraz, Gorgan, Zanjan and Qazvin who cooperated with the Muslim students stationed in the den of espionage in the matter of guarding the spies. We pray to Almighty God for the victory and greatness of Islam and the Muslim Iranian nation.

[Signed] Muslim student followers of the imam's policy

Rafsanjani on Hostage Issue

JN260825 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0608 GMT 26 Aug 80

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Islamic Majles Speaker's Opinions on Hostages, Appointments, Elections and United States," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reports on the weekly press conference of Islamic Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani with Iranian and foreign journalists.

Asked about his meeting yesterday with Archbishop Capucci, Rafsanjani said: Archbishop Capucci went to Italy to hold talks on the issue of the Iranian Muslim Student Society there. He has now returned with information on the matter. We also discussed matters relating to Christian minority schools in Iran.

Asked if a Majles committee is currently discussing the fate of the U.S. hostages, Rafsanjani said: The agenda of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee includes an item which calls for a reply to the letter received from the U.S. congressmen. Naturally, the committee should be prepared to discuss the hostage issue itself. I do not know if it has agreed on this or not.

Rafsanjani was asked: The Majles has approved [qad sadaqa 'ala] a reply to the letter of the U.S. congressmen. Will the Majles also reply to the letter of the EC and Japan?

The Majles speaker replied: This letter has not been presented to the Majles. But I believe that there are obstacles in replying to it.

Regarding the presentation of the new Cabinet list, Rafsanjani said: We expect the new Cabinet list to be presented to the Majles [words indistinct]. However, the talks between Prime Minister Raja'i and President Bani-Sadr are not yet over. Raja'i announced in a letter to the Majles last Thursday that he was ready to present the Cabinet list. As of yesterday, when I was informed of the Cabinet, Raja'i was still meeting with the president. My information is that complete agreement has not yet been reached. In other words, the president holds a different opinion on some of the Cabinet members. The president's opinion on the interior minister was announced yesterday. It seems the president has differing opinions also on other ministers. The dialogue is continuing.

An Iranian journalist asked this question: As you know, the Soviet Union is supplying arms to our enemy, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. Does the Islamic Majles intend to protest this matter to the Soviet Government?

Rafsanjani replied: We can express our dissatisfaction. We believe that whoever sells arms to our enemy does not want our friendship. If the reason behind such a protest were to convey this meaning, then the Majles (?supports) that. However, if the reason is to interfere in the affairs of the Soviet Government and its foreign trade, then this cannot possibly be done.

Asked if he supports or objects to Qotbzadeh's statement on the hostage issue in which he said that Iran is the only country violating international resolutions, Rafsanjani said: I disagree. The United States has violated international resolutions more than anyone else. I previously cited examples of such violations. What Iran has done constitutes no more than a simple reaction to all the injustice it has suffered at the hands of the Americans. The latest act of injustice was the interference of these U.S. spies in Iran by collaborating in the plotting and cooperating with Iran's enemies inside our country. I do not know if Qotbzadeh referred to this or not.

Asked his opinion on the date of elections in Kordestan and Kermanshah, Rafsanjani said: We have asked the Interior Ministry to hold the elections as soon as possible and in any place where circumstances are suitable and propitious.

Rafsanjani was then asked this question: The U.S. presidential candidates are exploiting every issue in their campaigns. How do you view the solution of the hostage issue?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani replied: Our information shows that the hostage issue is definitely influencing the U.S. presidential elections. Naturally, I do not claim to be well informed on American issues, because there are many other factors influencing U.S. policy. One of them is today's Iran as a factor which must be taken into consideration. We must not pay much attention to the talk that victory for the Democrats or the Republicans depends on a solution to the hostage issue.

Asked if he approves of Iran's current foreign policy toward the Soviet Union and Qotbzadeh's statement that the Soviet Embassy is also a den of espionage, Rafsanjani said: I do not agree now to this [word indistinct]. But I am inclined to support it in part.

NVOI on U.S. Congressmen's Appeal

GF231935 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 23 Aug 80

[Commentary: "U.S. Imperialism Should Be Revealed"]

[Summary] During the period that the U.S. Congress along with the ambassadors of the European Community and Japan--acting on the instructions of the White House and the CIA--started talking about the need to normalize relations with Iran and asking for the release of the hostages, Carter and his gang secretly began trying to put their real plan against our country into operation.

The revolutionary forces warned that U.S. imperialism is again preparing a wide-ranging plot against the Islamic Republic. This time, the American press revealed the secrets of the new U.S. plan for military aggression in Iran around the beginning of October.

Some well-known U.S. newspapers have been busily revealing the details of this plot for several days. "It is necessary to point out that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Majles speaker, took a strong stand against the letters of the U.S. congressmen and the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of EC member countries and Japan. He gave the proper response to U.S. imperialism and its Western allies. The Majles deputies' recent decision on the reply to the U.S. congressmen, which undoubtedly condemns U.S. imperialism, was the right thing to do.

"U.S. imperialism and its allies should realize once and for all that their rule in Iran has ended. Iran is an independent nation, and any decision it makes--such as the one concerning a group of spies--does not require any suggestions from any foreign country, especially U.S. imperialism and its allies." The U.S. imperialists should know that normalization of relations with Iran and freedom for the hostages are subject to the behavior of the United States. The gentlemen, hoping to achieve something after killing the shah, should know that the Iranian people did not want the return of the cursed shah alone. His death will not make any difference in relations between Iran and the United States.

The people know well that all the murders and treachery during the past 30 years were the results of the power of U.S. imperialism and its Western friends. It was the United States that forced the bloodsucking regime of the shah on our nation. It was the same regime that cheated us of billions every year. The United States was directly responsible for the murder and massacre of tens of thousands of Iranian fighters. The real power in Iran during the past 30 years was in the hands of the professional U.S. spies. These are the same U.S. congressional representatives who froze Iranian assets in the United States. It is with the permission of the same legislators that the U.S. Navy is situated near Iran, and the same people agreed to the plots against our Iran. The next plot now under discussion in the U.S. press cannot have escaped their notice.

With all these facts they still threaten the Majles deputies in their letters and talk about their responsibility toward the present situation. The United States should first return the wealth of shah and his family to Iran, confess to all the plots and treachery against Iran and guarantee that it will not intervene in our affairs.

EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ISSUES DECLARATION ON CONSULATE CLOSURE

LD251104 Tehran PARS in English 0734 GMT 25 Aug 80

["Declaration of the Iranian Embassy in Moscow"--PARS headline]

[Text] Tehran, 25 Aug (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the USSR Dr Mohammad Mokrin returned to Moscow after completing necessary procedures for the dissolution and closure of the Iranian Consulate in Leningrad. He immediately met with Soviet authorities to demand the closure of the Soviet Consulate in Rasht, informing them of the views of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Embassy.

Following the meeting, the embassy issued this declaration:

In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the USSR regarding the dissolution and closure of the Iranian Consulate in Leningrad strongly believes that the Soviet Government should make all possible efforts to dissolve and close its consulate in Rasht because:

1--In order to maintain equal number of agencies in both countries, the extra Soviet consulate in Iran should be closed. The Soviet consulate general in Esfahan, to which the consulate general of Iran in Baku corresponds could continue to operate as usual, according to previous agreement.

2--In Esfahan there is a concentration of Soviet nationals working on the Esfahan power station and in steel [words indistinct] therefore there is more rationale for the Soviet consular services in Esfahan than in Rasht, where few Soviet nationals reside.

3--In view of the strategic location of Rasht, sharing, as it does, land and water frontiers with the Soviet Union, dissolution of the consulate would alleviate the [word indistinct] of the Iranian people [word indistinct] Soviet [word indistinct] in the zone. Dissolution would also prevent [words indistinct] of the Soviet presence in this area.

AFP QUOTES KHOMEYNI ON REFERENCE TO HIS HEALTH

NC260950 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 26 Aug 80

[Text] Tehran, Aug 26 (AFP)--Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, today declined to respond directly to growing reports about his poor health, but said that if he died, "the people will remain present" informed sources said.

"Rumors are circulating, and foreign radios indicate that I am ill," he said to a visiting group of volunteers for the national mobilization, according to the sources. Without confirming or denying the rumors, Ayatollah Khomeyni told a popular tale.

"Once upon a time, there was a child who prayed to God that his teacher would die," he said. "But each time he died, his father changed schools. One day somebody told him: 'You're not making the right prayer. You should ask God that he make your father die, because then there will be nobody to take you to school.'

"And it's the same thing with me" he was quoted as saying. "I can die, but the people will remain present."

The ayatollah has made no public statements since August 18. On August 20, radio and television announcers asked the people to avoid visiting him, "because each interview endangers his health." Two days later, he resumed his audiences with visitors, but did not make speeches afterward, as he had before.

PRIME MINISTER DELIVERS SPEECH AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY

LD251520 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0735 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i delivered during the Friday prayer meeting on 4 July 1980 at Tehran University--recorded]

[Excerpts] O God, we aspire for a government, a noble government, under which Islam and Muslims would be held in high esteem and hypocrisy and hypocrites made humble. Late into the night, the faithful wept and implored God to give them such a government. Accosting each other, we kept reminding everyone not to forget to appeal to God during our prayers to bestow upon us an Islamic government. In exiles, in prisons, in hideouts, with or without weapons; while carrying leaflets, while under tortures or when in exiles, everywhere we said: O God, give us a government under which Islam and Muslims are honored. A great many people (?adhered) to this; a great many people distributed leaflets; they suffered prison terms and were sent into exile; they also suffered tortures. They said what they wanted. But, our nation, our Muslim people, wished the emerging government to honor Islam and Muslims, and to demean hypocrisy and hypocrites. This was the wish of the people who made the revolution successful in Iran. Not only did these people differ in their wish from other groups, but they also had their own peculiarities in the form of leadership, the struggle and the shouldering of the burden of struggle. Our claim that the Iranian revolution enjoys a certain peculiarity, our claim that the Iranian revolution is unprecedented in history is backed by some reasons, which I shall mention.

No one but the Shi'ite people can comprehend the Iranian revolution's leadership. Leaders of world revolutionary movements could govern or lead their peoples in one of two strata. The Soviet people followed Lenin in two or three (?aspects) of life; the Chinese people too acted similarly; the same thing applies to the Cuban people and Fidel Castro.

Whatever a Muslim Shi'ite does falls within one of these five cases; whatever it is, your look, my world, our brother's struggle, our sister's effort; they all come within five cases. These five cases are valid when one is asleep, when one is awake; it is valid when one is eating or one is going for an outing. You do realize that I am simply recalling these points. Whatever we do is either lawful, unlawful, recommended, legitimate or impunible. Now, who is to identify these? Whom are we to follow in recognizing them? The source of imitation [highest Islamic religious authority; in this case, Khomeyni]. Such a bond is unprecedented in any revolution in history. Consequently, the revolution's leadership is not simply a political leadership; nor is it simply an economic or social leadership; rather, it is a relationship between the source of imitation and the imitator.

As for the method of struggle: There were many different active groups in Iran, each having its own philosophy to make a success of its struggle. There were those who believed that only through terrorism could the government be overthrown and success achieved. There were others who believed that since there is a science for struggle, that since the science of struggle dictates that one must wait for the predicated, historical processes of the struggle to be completed, the working class must grow, leading to the emergence of a workers party and, consequently, a revolution to change the society. Considering that, as far as these historical processes are concerned, we are at a capitalist stage. However, since the Tudeh Party had failed in their earlier experiement, they claimed that, in addition to factory workers, farmers too can bring the revolution into fruition. Thus they displayed their claim through their sign; they said the forces of struggle comprise workers and peasants: thus the sickle for peasants and hammer for workers. There was also another group which adhered to the same philosophy, with a slight change, however, giving it a religious color. This group displayed the anvil, signifying workers, and sickle, signifying peasants.

Neither of these philosophies succeeded in our revolution. In 1960-1963 our religious figures entered into negotiations with the national front, saying unless the national front's movement takes a religious form it would not succeed; they refused to accept this and saw the result.

Considering its peculiarity, this is an ideological revolution; this means that this is not a political revolution. It was not to reject one party and replace it with another that motivated our people to die and be captured. This is not an economic revolution either; our people did not die only to gain employment, bread or housing. As the imam said, these things are of secondary importance.

My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention. Our hierarchy begins with God followed by the prophet and the imam and leader; then we reach the problem of departments. Our revolution is not confined solely to the wearing of veils by our sisters. The purpose of the revolution was not to have our sisters wear veils; this is only one of 100,000 problems facing our ideology. Those afflicted by all kinds of perversions in their lives cannot be saved by simply wearing a scarf. Our ideology encompasses certain guidelines for living. These guidelines are based on our Weltanschauung.

The government which ought to take over, following the Islamic Revolution in Iran, should be an ideological government. This ideological government, namely, its Weltanschauung, should rule our thought, and its ideology should rule our actions. This is what we say. We say that first the leader of the revolution must be accepted as the highest source of authority then the prime minister, minister or director general in such a government.

The future government must completely believe in Islamic ideology; so that if we see Islam in one particular ministry we do not have to search for Islam in another; so that we may (?treasure) the pure blood of the martyrs.

BANI-SADR, RAJA'I AGREE ON MOST CABINET MEMBERS

GF251545 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] The Muslim Iranian people are still waiting very patiently for Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i to introduce his new Cabinet to the Islamic Consultative Assembly so the assembly can grant its vote of confidence. They are also waiting for the Cabinet to assume its task of running the country's affairs. The announcment is expected to take place tomorrow, Tuesday, during the Majles' ordinary open session.

Prime Minister Raja'i has been delayed in introducing his Cabinet to the Majles because of President Bani-Sadr's recent tour of southern Khorasan Province. Following his return, President Bani-Sadr and the prime minister discussed the formation of the Cabinet yesterday. The meeting ended with an agreement on all points with the exception of the Interior Ministry. The president noted some observations in this regard in view of the sensitivity of this post and its importance to the country in its present situation.

According to the prime minister, the Cabinet members have been chosen in consultation with popular revolutionary institutions and from among faithful, revolutionary, youthful and determined elements to insure that the new Cabinet will be more capable of facing the requirements of the current situation and of rebuilding the country and directing the struggle with U.S. imperialism and its local agents.

RAFSANJANI INTERVIEWED ON CABINET FORMATION, MAJLES AFFAIRS

LD252224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1706 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] Dear listerners, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, gave a press and radio-television interview with home and foreign reporters today in which he replied to their questions on current problems of the country.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly also gave an interview to our correspondent in which he made some remarks on the current problems of the country. We end this news bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the text of this interview.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Rafsanjani, in connection with the announcement that Mr Raja'i is ready to announce the names of the Cabinet members, would you please tell us when the Cabinet will be presented to the Majles?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Of course, we expected that the Cabinet would be presented to the Majles on Thursday. Mr Raja'i sent a letter to us on Thursday and announced his readiness to present his Cabinet. The difficulty was that according to the Constitution the Cabinet must be approved by the president before its presentation to the Majles. That day Mr Bani-Sadr was not available; he was away on a trip.

(?Apparently) later Mr Raja'i was able to contact Mr Bani-Sadr by telephone when the president was in Zarand, near Kerman, and presented the names of the Cabinet members to him. He decided to withold approval until he returned to Tehran. He returned to Tehran on Saturday night. The following day Mr Raja'i met him. That day Mr Bani-Sadr objected to the proposed minister of the interior (?and the Cabinet list was not complete so it could not be presented to the Majles on Sunday). Once again, the discussion continued until today and still in my opinion not all members of the Cabinet have been accepted by Mr Bani-Sadr. The Majles was informed that if agreement is reached by the end of their discussions today the Cabinet will be presented to the Majles tomorrow. If Mr Bani-Sadr (?is still unable to make a decision) the matter will be postponed.

[Question] In connection with the same problem, after the presentation of the Cabinet to the Majles, will future sessions of the Majles which discuss the work of the government be open or closed sessions?

[Answer] They will be open sessions. They must be open and there will be at least two sessions. And voting must also be open. The vote of confidence must also be open.

[Question] Article 133 of the Constitution says the number of ministers and the limits of their authority will be determined by the law. How will this article be implemented?

[Answer] At present we are acting in accordance with the former laws. It means the (?duties) and responsibilities of each minister are determined by the Constitution, or by the regulations determined during the meetings of the Revolution Council or the previous laws. Alterations must be approved by the Majles to become law. If there is going to be amalgamation of several ministries or if new ministries are to be created, or if there is any other new problem which ministers might encounter, all must be approved by the Majles.

[Question] My next question is about the "purge bill" which was approved by the Revolution Council, and if I am not mistaken the deadline is 28 August. Has there been any move to extend this period, or is this going to be approved as a bill in the Majles?

[Answer] A lot is said in connection with this problem. Of course you asked a question. There has been a plan proposed by some of the representatives to the Majles to extend this deadline for some time, and I think we shall raise this issue at the next session. But, the original of this bill: As you are aware, this bill was approved by the Revolution Council and each ministry has been authorized to implement this bill. It means each ministry elects five people to implement the purge bill. Three members are elected by the staff and two others are chosen by the minister. Then this committee studies and investigates files and records of their colleagues and makes suggestions which must be signed by the minister. Unfortunately this bill has not been implemented properly; another group has been established known as the "cleaning up committee" and a large number of individuals--who are mostly very good people--have joined this committee. Most of these people work very hard and have done a lot. These people are also affiliated with the president's office too, meaning they have been announced, and the heading of their letter also indicates this fact. But the Revolution Council has not actually approved them as responsible members of the purge committee. They can remain as consultants. These people have tried hard and have investigated some files and have spent hours for this purpose. In some cases they have not acted exactly as the Revolution Council has approved, therefore the review committees are more dutybound to investigate previous problems more carefully.

[Question] In view of your announcement that from now on the Majles will hold open session on odd days, meaning 3 days per week, and the even days are allocated for the work of the Majles commissions, do you think that such an amount of time is sufficient for the work of the Majles and investigation of the country's affairs?

[Answer] This question is in the minds of many people, wondering whether the deputies are active enough or whether they can do enough during the periods we have announced. I must explain that since this new arrangement there is a pile of work in front of the deputies and if they worked more than 10-15 hours a day there would still be work to do, because the commissions and open sessions do not take more than 4-5 hours of the deputies' time. But their more important task is to study plans, the laws of the past and proposed bills, visit ministries to observe their conditions, pay visits to their own constituencies to listen to people's complaints and get in touch with the people who elected them. In short they must use all their time. At present we are allocating offices to these gentlemen so that they can contact people and clients. Generally, the deputies have a lot to do and they are very busy; mostly they feel there is to much work and not enough time.

[Question] As a last question I would like to ask about your meeting with Archbishop Capucci, what problems did you discuss at that meeting?

[Answer] One problem he raised was the problem of schools for the Christian minority. He was concerned that these schools might be closed down and he delivered a message from the pope on the same subject. But when I went to the Ministry of Education it became apparent there was no such plan to close Christian schools. The decision is that such schools must be for their own children only. Muslim children must not be admitted in these schools. And they must agree not to organize mixed schools. The capacity of their schools must not go beyong their needs and they are permitted to have their own shools. And he was satisfied (?with this decision).

Capucci also had another problem and that was the news of the arrest of Iranian students in Italy. The Italian Government agreed not to cause any trouble for our Muslim student children in that country. [end recording].

BANI-SADR DISCUSSES 'COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS' WITH KHOMEYNI'S SON

LD251040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Aug 8

[Text] Our special correspondent at the presidential office reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni met and conferred with President Bani-Sadr this morning. The course of the meeting the country's problems and difficulties were discussed.

MONTAZERI ATTACKS 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

LD221221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 22 Aug

[Text] The unifying Friday prayers, led by His Esteemed Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, were held at Hakim Nezami secondary school in Qom. Before the prayers began Hojjat ol-Islam Khaz'ali delivered a speech. Then Ayatollah Montazeri started the prayers and, while warning departments against a lack of efficiency and creating obstacles in the performance of their duties, termed them counterrevolutionary. In another part of his sermon, he called on our brothers and sisters in Britain who have staged sitins, to end their hunger strike as soon as possible and continue their Islamic struggles.

In the second part of the prayers, while congratulating Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i on his appointment, he called on him to immediately abolish a series of ceremonial ministries, like the Ministry of Culture and Art, in line with forming a revolutionary government. He also called on him to stop bureaucracy and scheming in the future government.

FOUR PERSONS INVOLVED IN 'ABORTIVE PLOT' STAND TRIAL

GF251723 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] The Islamic Revolution prosecutor general's office has announced that the trial of four persons who took part in the abortive U.S. plot began at the special Islamic Revolution Court this afternoon. The four accused persons include one woman, two clerks and one soldier.

CLASHES REPORTED IN AZARBAYJAN PROVINCE

LD251124 Tehran PARS in English 0748 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Excerpts] Tehran, 25 Aug (PARS)--One revolutionary guardsman was martyred and four others injured in clashes with counter-revolutionaries near Takabs west Azarbayjan Province, spokesman for the joint headquarters of the army and revolutionary corps in Sanandaj announced yesterday.

Armed assailants attacked the city of Sa'in Dez, district of Miyanduab northwest Iran, with mortar and other arms at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday. One of the city inhabitants was injured by mortar and has been hospitalized. According to the report, 9 mortars were fired to the city and damages in property has been inflicted on the city. Also, heavy casualties were inflicted upon the insurgents. The clashes continued till yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, the joint staff of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement regarding the rumours concerning the shortage of foodstuffs. The statement said that counter-revolutionaries had spread rumours that no one was safe in the city of Sanandaj, that all the city buildings had been destroyed and that the city is crippled by a shortage of foodstuffs.

Denying the report, the city mayor said that all these rumors were aimed at destroying the morale of the people. He added that foodstuffs in Sanandaj were even cheaper in Sanandaj that it was in other parts of the country.

The statement added that the joint staff of the army had denied rumours of counter-revolutionaries after investigating the case through the Sanandaj army headquarters.

AHVAZ MILITARY TRAINEES PLACED ON ALERT

GF251550 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Pesian 1230 GMT 25 Aug 80

[Text] The mobilization unit of the Ahvaz Revolution Guards has announced that all mobilization forces who have completed military training in mosques and military barracks, the (Abuzar), (Balal) and (Amar) groups and students who have completed the 10-day summer course have been placed on alert.

The announcement says all trained borthers and sister should contact the social affairs office of the Revolution Guards in (Bagh Mo'in) on 26 August for coordination and organization. All sisters should report at 0800 and brothers at 1800 tomorrow.